

MINUTES
STATE PRESERVES ADVISORY BOARD
Visitors Center
Effigy Mounds National Monument
April 23, 2008

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Scott Moats
Carl Kurtz
Cindy Peterson, Chair
Richard Leopold
Armando Rosales
Deb Lewis

STAFF PRESENT

John Pearson
Daryl Howell

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Cindy Peterson called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM on April 23, 2008 at the Effigy Mounds National Monument visitor center.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

John Pearson asked if Item 5 – Proposed Bicycle trail at Starr's Cave be moved up until after 11:00.

Motion was made by Scott Moats to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Carl Kurtz. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Correction: Carl Kurtz was not in attendance at the January 18, 2008 meeting

Motion was made by Armando Rosales to approve the minutes from the January 18 2008 meeting as presented. Seconded by Scott Moats. Motion carried.

PRESERVES MANAGERS CONFERENCE

The 2nd Annual State Preserves Managers Resources Management Seminar will be held on July 24-July 25 in conjunction with our quarterly meetings. The seminar will take place at the Hartman Reserve Nature Center in Cedar Falls. More information can be found on our website:
http://www.iowadnr.com/spab/files/08july_poster.pdf

PROPOSED GLENWOOD STATE PRESERVES UPDATE

Richard Leopold spoke with Kevin Concannon, Department Director of Human Services and John Baldwin & Roger Basin of Iowa Prison Industries (IPI). IPI currently farms the land. They have a contract to continue farming for three years. We are still in negotiations. We do have a couple of Senators that are interested in this issue.

VINCENT BLUFF PRESERVE NOMINATION

John Pearson said that Glenn Pollock of the Loess Hills Preservation Society has finished revisions to the management plan as requested at the January meeting. A decision is needed on whether to approve scenic preserve status for Vincent Bluff.

Glenn Pollock said that the City is very supportive and approves of preserve status for Vincent Bluff.

Motion was made by Armando Rosales to recommend scenic preserve status for Vincent Bluff. Seconded by Carl Kurtz. Motion carried.

SEED HARVEST REQUEST

Bill Johnson is again requesting permission to hand harvest seed from several prairie preserves. The intent of this project is to harvest native ecotype prairie seed from state preserves and, in turn, plant 100% of seed collected on seed production plots or on state-owned or public land. By harvesting from preserves, the hope is to establish several local seed sources around the state. These areas will eventually be harvested to further perpetuate the availability and use of native Iowa seed sources.

Motion was made by Scott Moats to approve the seed harvest request as presented. Seconded by Carl Kurtz. Motion carried.

PROPOSAL SELECTIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

Each board member went through every proposal and gave their score based on three different criteria. Some board members did abstain from scoring certain proposals due to the conflict of interest.

- 1) Benefit of proposed study to state preserves or preserves system
- 2) Feasibility of proposed study
- 3) Soundness of methodology

Charted below are the proposal selections made by the board for fiscal year 2009. Those highlighted will be the only ones funded. Funding cut off is \$44,000.

Proposal	Rank	Cost	Cumulative
Watson – Prairie Habitat Management	1.2	\$9,130	\$9,130
OSA – Mapping of Poisel Mound Group (Malchow Mounds)	1.25	\$2,940	\$12,070
Fogell – Amphibian, Reptile and Mammal survey of Vincent Bluff	1.4	\$3,000	\$15,070
Roosa – Botanical survey of Fallen Rock	1.4	\$4,369	\$19,439
Kolford – Area-sensitive birds species of several state preserves	1.5	\$9,163	\$28,602
Olsen – Status of the Common Ringlet	1.6	\$1,395	\$29,997
Roosa – Botanical survey of Mann Wilderness	1.6	\$3,910	\$33,907
Genus – Fort Atkinson Public Interpretation	1.75	\$4,515	\$38,422
Norris – Fungi, bryophytes and vascular plants of Mossy Glen	1.75	\$2,680	\$41,102
Olsen – Dinesen, Sheeder	2	\$3,150	\$44,252
OSA – Ground-penetrating Radar mapping of Malchow Mounds	2.25	\$7,549	\$51,801
Bolton and Menk – Archaeological Survey of Anderson, Hartman and Eureka Woods	2.5	\$17,280	\$69,081

OSA – Hartman Bluff Archaeological Survey	2.5	\$7,724	\$76,805
Olsen - Stinson	2.6	\$3,150	\$79,955
McCain & Associates – Conservation Assessment of Fossil and Prairie Park	2.8	\$9,145	\$89,100
McCain & Associates – Conservation Assessment of Ocheyedan Mound	3	\$2,975	\$92,075

Motion was made by Scott Moats to approve the proposal selections as presented. Seconded by Deb Lewis. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Motion was made by Deb Lewis to nominate Cindy Peterson as chairperson of the State Preserves Advisory board. Seconded by Armando Rosales. Motion carried.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Director Leopold presented Scott Moats with a plaque of appreciation for his years of service on the State Preserves Board.

Glenn Pollock asked about grouping 5 prairie cemeteries and then submitting them into the preserve system based on the surrounding variety of native prairie. Currently the cemeteries are managed by myself and the county conservation board. They are privately and county owned.

The board recommended that Glenn consider a friends group to help with the management.

Deb Lewis mentioned that the Brushy Creek Advisory Board has made the changes to address the erosion issue and they are holding up.

PROPOSED BICYCLE TRAIL AT STARR'S CAVE PRESERVE

A proposal for the Flint River Recreation Trail, a 16 mile long multi-use trail extending from Burlington to Big Hollow Recreation Area, was presented the Preserves Board in October 2007 by the Des Moines Conservation Board(DMCCB). The proposed route passes through Starr's Cave State Preserve, which is managed by DMCCB. The preserves board tabled the proposal until the January 2008 meeting to allow board members to visit the preserve. DMCCB Director Jeff Bergman was unable to attend the January meeting, so this item was tabled until today.

Jeff Bergman, DMCCB Director said that one of the key areas where we would like the bike trail to run is Starr's Cave. It's a DNR property under a management with Des Moines County Conservation board. Our proposal is to eliminate some of the trails in the area, improve other trails (650 feet) and then run the trail through the area.

The South Eastern Iowa Regional Planning Committee (SEIRPC) organized a Trail Advisory Committee to provide public guidance of the trail project and provide recommendations on major decisions.

We looked at alternative routes. We looked at three areas. The east route highway 61 and the west route. The west route was chosen as the favorite. People wanted a very scenic route as opposed to a road side route. The west route is the cheapest route. We want to do everything possible to try not and disturb the natural vegetation. We also plan to hire a full time person to manage and maintain this entire trail system as well as the enforcement of it. We have received a lot of public input that helped us determine the preferred route.

Richard Leopold asked when the planning process began?

Jeff Bergman said about four years ago. The SEIRPC started getting involved about two years ago. The project was delayed a bit because of some archeological surveys at Big Hollow. It's expected to take about five years to complete this trail system.

John Pearson said that the DNR became involved in July of last year.

Scott Moats said that the DNR as the landowner should have been involved with discussions from the very start of this project.

Richard Leopold said that though he loves trails there is conflicting use patterns. The preserves system was not intended for recreational use.

Scott Moats asked if there would be interpretative signage?

Jeff Bergman said that the trails advisory committee will come up with some interpretative areas within the preserves.

Mark Edwards said that he has been to the site several times and is concerned with what sort of impacts there will be.

John Pearson gave the suggestion that the bike trail go up to Flint Bottom road and then cut through the field and back to the proposed area.

Motion was made by Armando Rosales to postpone the decision until a new proposal is discussed that would address the boards concern.

Since there was no second, the motion failed.

Motion was made by Scott Moats to deny the trail through Starr's Cave Preserves as proposed. Seconded by Deb Lewis.

Deb Lewis is opposed to active use (biking) through the preserve. That's not the purpose of our preserve system.

Scott Moats said that he is uncomfortable with the trail system going through the preserve. I would like to see other options explored.

Roll call vote went as follows: Armando Rosales – nay; Richard Leopold – abstained; Scott Moats – aye; Cindy Peterson – aye; Carl Kurtz – aye; Deb Lewis – aye. Motion carried.

Jeff Bergman said that trail improvements are needed plus a possible walking trail to connect to the whole trail system.

NEXT MEETINGS

July 24 – 25, 2008 – Preserves Board meeting in conjunction with the 2nd Annual Preserves Manager Seminar in Cedar Falls.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Carl Kurtz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Deb Lewis. Motion carried.

With no further business to come before the State Preserves Advisory Board, Chairperson Cindy Peterson adjourned the meeting at 11:55 AM on April 23, 2008.

A

Adjournment, 6
Approval of agenda, 1
Approval of Minutes, 1

B

Board Members Present, 1

C

call to order, 1

E

Election of chairperson, 4

N

Next Meeting, 6

O

Open Discussion, 4

P

Preserves Managers Conference, 1
Proposal Selections for Fiscal Year 2009, 3
Proposed Bicycle Trail at Starr's Cave Preserve, 4
Proposed Glenwood State Preserves Update, 2

S

Seed Harvest Request, 2
staff present, 1

V

Vincent Bluff Preserve Nomination, 2